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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W
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R 251906Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0558
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06288

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSES HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

1. I CALLED ON ARNOLD SMITH, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH, ON APRIL 23 FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. LIKE THE BRITISH, SMITH STRESSED THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF THE DISCUSSION OF PRODUCER-CONSUMER RELATIONS. SMITH DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS OF THE BRITISH INITIATIVE ON THIS ITEM, AND IN FACT, HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TOLD ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THEM. THE ONLY NEW LIGHT SMITH SHED ON THE SUBJECT WAS
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THAT THE TIMING FOR THE INITIATIVE IS EXCELLENT, AS THE

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PRICES OF MANY COMMODITIES PRODUCED BY COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS ARE NOW IN A TROUGH AND BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS THUS HAVE MORE TO GAIN FROM STABILIZATION AT THIS TIME.

2. SMITH NOTED THAT THE DISCUSSION ON CHANGING POWER RELATIONSHIPS WOULD DEAL PARTICULARLY WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST. MADAM GHANDI HAD AGREED TO PREPARE THE PAPER AND INTRODUCE THE TOPIC.

3. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA SMITH SAID THE PROSPECTS FOR REAL PROGRESS LOOK VERY GOOD. HE SAID THAT THIS PROGRESS SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER IMPETUS BY LEADERS OF THE US AND THE COMMONWEALTH MAKING ENCOURAGING OR CAUTIONARY COMMENTS ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS. THE COMMONWEALTH WILL HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY BY AGREEING TO HELP OFFSET THE COST TO MOZAMBIQUE OF APPLYING SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE PRESSURES BEING EXERTED ON RHODESIA BY SOUTH AFRICA, COULD BE CRUCIAL. AS A FRIEND OF THE US, SMITH SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT TO ESCAPE CENSURE FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

4. ANOTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN ITEM ON THE AGENDA WILL BE NAMIBIA, AND SMITH SAID HE IS PLANNING TO PROPOSE COMMONWEALTH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NAMIBIANS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE NAMIBIA BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH WHEN IT GAINS INDEPENDENCE.

5. SMITH PROMISED TO GIVE ME A RUN-DOWN ON THE CONFERENCE WHEN HE RETURNS.
RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMMONWEALTH, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON06288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0927
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750417/aaaaappq.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSES HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK, (SMITH, ARNOLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006